



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEAUMONT MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Beaumont, Texas) A 52-year-old Beaumont man has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for possessing images of child pornography in the Eastern District of Texas. **RANDY CRAIG ROCHELLE** was sentenced by United States District Judge Marcia Crone today.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, was pleased with the sentence, "This hefty sentence speaks volumes of the seriousness of this crime. This is not a victimless crime. Children are exploited in these images and it is a sad case for everyone involved."

According to information presented in court, the investigation originated from a nationwide FBI undercover online investigation involving chat rooms specializing in the exchange of child pornography. As a result of the investigation, a number of search warrants were executed nationwide over the course of several years after information was obtained from various internet service providers. A federal search warrant was executed at Rochelle's residence on June 30, 2004, by federal and local officers. A federal grand jury indicted Rochelle in May, 2005 and he pleaded guilty to the charge on November 17, 2005.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Beaumont Police Department Computer Forensics Laboratory and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert L. Rawls.